

Central Intelligence Agency



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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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China-US Military Technology Talks

Summary

The Chinese attach high importance to the China-US arms talks, which begin 13 February in Washington. They hope the negotiations will lead to the transfer of vitally needed technology for China's defense modernization. The Chinese delegation will come prepared to discuss China's specific military needs, and they will attempt to conduct the talks in the context of China's desires to remain largely self-sufficient in defense production. We believe the delegation will:

- Focus on buying weapons manufacturing technology rather than complete weapon systems.
- Seek state-of-the-art US military technology.
- Show a strong preference to limit their negotiations to specific technology on an item-by-item basis rather than broader forms of defense technology cooperation. [redacted]

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Technology Focus

We believe Beijing remains adamantly opposed to purchasing military systems that exclude the transfer of the manufacturing technology. [redacted]

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] of the China Division of the Office of East Asian Analysis, Directorate of Intelligence. Questions or comments are welcome and may be directed to the Chief, Defense Issues Branch [redacted]

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Defense Minister Zhang Aiping has publicly rejected the concept of massive weapons imports as "unrealistic" and has exhorted Chinese industry to be self-sufficient in the production of needed weapons.

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-- Zhang has backed up his words with action by blocking the wholesale purchase of the British Sea Dart naval missile and cancelling Air Force negotiations with the French for Mirage fighters.

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### Seek State-of-the-Art

The Chinese have shown little inclination to accept less than first-line US military technology, and we expect the delegation to maintain that stand during the talks next week. We believe the Chinese will place high priority on acquiring an advanced version of the TOW antitank guided missile.

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### Composition of Delegation

The composition of the Chinese negotiating team indicates that Beijing regards these talks as extremely important and is earnest in its desire for US assistance in defense modernization.

-- Zhang Pin, leader of the Chinese delegation, is the Defense Minister's son, has a leading role in the NDSTIC,

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-- He Ping, son-in-law of Military Commission Chairman Deng Xiaoping, [REDACTED]

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-- He Pengfei, son of deceased PLA Marshal He Long, is a pivotal official in PLA's General Staff Equipment Department.

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-- Ju Jian, an official of NDSTIC, participated in the military technology talks with members of Secretary Weinberger's delegation in Beijing last September. [REDACTED]

Although all are fairly young and junior in military rank, their political connections and positions ensure that they have the ear of China's most senior leadership. While it is unlikely that they have been empowered to make procurement decisions while in the United States, they can be expected to play key roles in China's deliberations over the acquisition of US military technology. [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: China-US Military Technology Talks

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